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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 387. JANUARY, 1939.

WISDOM. FREEDOM. FRIENDSHIP.

EPH. IV. 6—"Over all, in all, through all."

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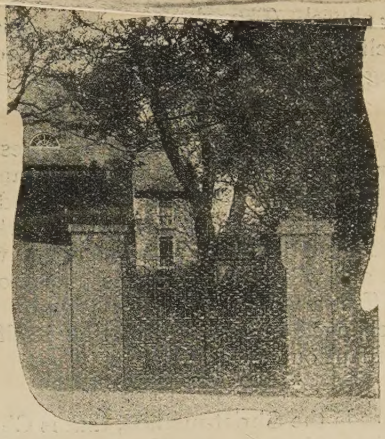


The picture to the left is that of Todmorden Church which the Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc, has resigned, to become minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast. A reference to Mr. Wilde will be found in this magazine.

The picture to the right is a small section of Downpatrick Meeting House. A special effort has recently been made to raise funds for the building of a suitable Manse. Historical sketch will be found in the inside pages.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A well-known author, in the early part of 1938, recorded his impressions of the Near East, which were still fresh and vivid after his travels through various countries, which are frequently classed together as the Balkan States, such as Yugo Slavia, Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, and his estimate of the influence which from this quarter, is bound to be exercised upon European thought and affairs. There is a great deal to be found there that is quaint and beautiful, in the way of national costumes and music, and a liberalism whi h brings a representative of the King of Yugoslavia, and a Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church on to the platform of a congress which has to do with universal religion.

* * *

It was away in this district that Unitarianism took its rise in Europe, the Church bearing the name Unitarian, was episcopal and a recent calamitous circumstances its pre-eminent position is under an eclipse, the desire for peace is undoubtedly strong in the hearts of the peoples

* * *

The nations of the world are at present on a war-footing. It is impossible and dangerous in these days, in the midst of an armed world to be anything else than armed ; yet while the Christmas chimes are still sounding, we can think and will strongly peace and good-will, and effect a work of transmutation by means of a changed inner life asserting itself in a discordant outer-world.

* * *

That is the Christ-method, that is Christian teaching whose most effective proclamation is by life rather than the spoken word.

* * *

This is not a time for any special jubilation. We cannot write enthusiastically, as at times it may have been possible for us to do ; "The flowing tide is with us." None the less if it is under the surface and out of sight, it is still there, whatever the statistics and reports we are able to produce, for the flowing tide is the irresistible will of God, and in spiritual work whatever the seeming failures and set back, victory is sure, for our concern is only with the present action, and never with the event. All the same we wish every success and encouragement this New Year, to our friends in their various lines of work that they may labour together with willing hands and fervent hearts in the fear of the Lord and love of the brethren.

* * *

PULPIT SUPPLY.—The Rev. W. Eakin 103 Greenore Street, Belfast.

* * *

A matter, which concerns others than ministers-of-religion is the new Government Pensions Scheme, and the booklet giving full information about the Government proposals is entitled "The New Pensions Scheme' and may be had from the Ministry of Health. The Scheme only includes those whose income does not exceed £400 per annum. All under the age of 55 are eligible if the Scheme is taken advantage of before 3rd January, 1939.

* * *

After 2nd January, 1939, no person who is of the age of 40 or more will be eligible under the Scheme. The rate for all who join at the beginning of the scheme will be 1/3 per week, but after that date contributions will vary according to age, with the great probability of increased premiums. With a small exception, the State Scheme is the only means whereby ministers can provide a guaranteed income for widows and orphans.

* * *

Only a week remains after the publication of this issue of the magazine to grasp the opportunity for these advantages, and we urge our readers who are entitled to them, to act instantly, without delay.

* * *

February, 1939, number published on 28th January, 1939, Copy sent in before January 21st will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

* * *

The subscriptions from congregations for the Magazine are now due, and should be forwarded to the Treasurer, the Rev. Alfred Davison, Dromore.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

* * *

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian can be obtained at the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

Sincere sympathy will go to Dr. Agnew and his loyal workers in York Street for the misfortune that has befallen them. The storm which was unable to prevent the great service on October the 2nd in the Ulster Hall, took its revenge on the Church. We hear that the rain is coming in in many places, the organ has been damaged and much of the good work done often by voluntary labour in the Church is being rapidly destroyed. Temporary repairs are being carried out but it will require at least £300 to make good the damage. The raising of this sum which would lead to an appeal to the whole denomination almost anywhere else would only be one more obstacle to the York Street people to over come as they have overcome so many in the past. We hear that in one week over fifty pounds was subscribed. What has caused so much disappointment has been the set back to the plan on which the congregation have been working quietly for years and which it had been hoped to set forward substantially for the centenary in 1940 which was no less than to endeavour to endow the congregation. We have always been admirers of the work in York Street, but we confess we have shared the feeling that it was to some extent a personal congregation which might not survive the present Ministry. We might have expected however that those who have done so much would not be sacrificing themselves rebuilding a Church without having some plan to see that could continue. But the clearing of debt and rebuilding have gone side by side with the laying aside of all that could be spared to establish a fund from which the present generation could expect to benefit hardly at all. It was expected that the rebuilding would be substantially complete by 1940 and it was hoped at that time to add a large sum to the present reserves and thereafter to continue building these up to such an extent that the Church could always call a minister as it was unable to do for many years. To have saved a church is something. To rebuild it almost unaided is another, but to sacrifice itself in the presence of all its difficulties for the future is as fine a thing as any congregation could do and the more so since these sacrifices must be in the nature of a forlorn hope. It requires large investments to provide any income in these days.

Other denominations are spending large sums to establish new churches. Here a congregation larger than any in our body has been built up, not of hearers only but loyal workers.

It is the pride of the congregation that since its debt was cleared for which it was not responsible no appeal whatever has been made for help. What few donations have come to it have come unasked and we hear that every one of these has been added to reserve and not even the interest made use of. The loss of York Street and its stimulating activities and its fine congregation whose boundless hospitality so many have experienced is something not to be thought of. It would also be a tragedy if the years of great labour and sacrifice are lost and perhaps if an appeal is made to the denomination not for a doubtful missionary effort but to secure a great work done it will be gladly responded to. The income from investments we are informed pays for the electric light and contribution to the sustentation fund, only paid when there is a minister and provide for the caretaker. Beyond that the entire income of the church has to be raised annually some of it by work in a small hall and this would be sufficient for most churches without the raising of hundreds of pounds as well. The Non-Subscriber, always sold out in York Street wishes good luck to that hardworking congregation and good health to its minister.

How Jesus became Christ.

Son, though he was, he learned by all he suffered how to obey, and by being thus perfected he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Heb. v. 8. (Moffatt's translation.)

Ephesians III, 9-11 "This grace was vouchsafed me, that I should enlighten all men upon the new order of that divine secret which God the Creator of all concealed from eternity—intending to let the full sweep of the divine wisdom be disclosed now by the church . . . in terms of the eternal purpose which he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Moffat's translation).

DOWNPATRICK.

The little picture of the entrance to Downpatrick Meeting House, is all that has been possible to obtain under present conditions. A fire at the printer's in Belfast some years ago, may account for the disappearance not only of the Downpatrick block, but of others as well. Perhaps in the future it may be possible to collect the full set of pictures, as there are those who would like very much to have pictures of all the meeting-houses.

We owe a very great apology to Downpatrick for the omission of the second advertisement of the Sale of Work on December 8th, 1938, in the Assembly Hall, Downpatrick, for the purpose of raising money for the building of a New Manse. By some mischance it must have been mislaid somewhere and the omission was not discovered until after publication. We trust however that local advertisements reached all in the district, and that the congregation has not suffered inconvenience.

The list of ministers dates from 1661, the year of the Restoration of Monarchy in England, when Charles II. ascended the throne. The strong re-action against the puritan supremacy showed itself in the displacement of Presbyterian ministers from the pulpits of parish churches, in the following year to be followed up with a much wider and more thorough ejection of at least 2,000, though that is placing the figure at a modest estimate. A number of these afterwards formed the nucleus of the congregation rightly or wrongly, which have become classed, as "Unitarian." A dozen names from Mr. Sinclair, 1661, to the late Mr. Michael S. Dunbar, 1894, include those of men of high scholarship, who in their ministries exercised an influence reaching much wider than the immediate locality ; e.g. John Hutchenson (1691-1697) had a son Francis, who was born at Downpatrick, and became Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, and left the reputation of having been "the most eloquent and influential professor in the Scottish Universities in the first half of the Eighteenth Century "

With Thomas Nevin, 1710-1744, we have the beginning of Non-Subscribing Presbyterianism in Downpatrick. He came into conflict with the old General Synod of Ulster, to whom he was amenable, and had to stand his trial for certain alleged expressions in private conversation, deemed heresy, being supposed to imply that he held Arian views of the person of Christ. Being called upon to make a declaration of belief, he refused from conscientious motives, and was excluded from Church fellowship. Two years afterwards the Presbytery of Antrim, and thus the movement which ultimately developed into the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church was launched. The Rev. James Nelson, 1792-1831, had the degree D.D. conferred upon him, unsolicited "on account of his critical and accurate knowledge of the Holy Scriptures in their original tongues." His son Samuel Craig Nelson, M.A ; 1835-1891, was minister at Dromore for ten years, before becoming his father's assistant at Downpatrick. At Glasgow he competed successfully in mathematics with Dr. Candlish, a name which in Scotland ranks with that of Chalmers and Guthrie. He died in his 91st year, in Jan., 1891 The Rev. David Gordon his assistant and successor, appointed in 1871, became sole minister, but died shortly afterwards in 1893. That brings us to the ministry of the Rev. Michael S. Dunbar, 1894-1916. The Rev. John Begg, of Larne was one of the successors, to Mr. Dunbar, and the present minister the Rev. Henry Hall, came to Downpatrick from Hinckley last February, and since his settlement there has been a marked revival of interest in the work of the Church generally, with greatly increased attendances at the services. A Sunday School has been held during the summer months for children living in the Hollymount district, too far away to attend the School at Downpatrick, and also a monthly service for adults has been held at Hollymount. The minister's efforts there have met with very great success. Keen enthusiasm has characterized a good many activities in the direction of raising money necessary for the building of a New Manse. Downpatrick is a very ancient place, and we have historical notes dating from 1100 B.C., covering over 3000 years. They are intensely interesting and we may have space for them in time to come.

FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY.

Out of the Past, from darkening ages growing
Into the light that marks the Eternal Day,
Forth from the mist that veils the Self's true knowing,
Hides the bright soul beneath a mask of clay—
Out of this Past, with swiftest feet we're springing
To a sure foothold on the Perfect Way,
Comrades of past lives joy and comfort bringing,
Speeding beside us to the Golden Day.

(Author unknown)

THE REV. REGINALD W. WILDE, M.A., B.Sc.

In the current issue of the "Todmorden Unitarian Calendar" Mr. Wilde writes that he decided to accept the invitation to this ancient and historic church (First Presbyterian Church, Belfast), only after very earnest consideration. "You will not expect me to go into details of the reasons which have prompted this decision. Rather I would use this opportunity to assure you of my lasting affection and my gratitude for the many kindnesses you have shown to me and mine. All of us have shared many happinesses together; some of us have shared very deep sorrows together. For eleven years I have lived among you, rejoicing in your friendship and confidence, and endeavouring to give you mine in return. Out of that eleven years have grown precious friendships and high intimacies which I shall ever prize most deeply.

"The cut adrift will be keenly felt by all of us. My boy has known no other home; he is Todmorden to the core. My wife and myself have grown to think of the place as our own. And now it is to end. We find it hard to realise. But I know you will believe me when I say that I have tried to decide what seems to me the best in all the circumstances.

"I can only hope," Mr. Wilde concludes, "that my successor will be as happy as I have been. And I trust that you will give to him (whoever he may be) every loyalty and support."

The impending departure of Mr. Wilde will be a severe loss to Todmorden, not only to its religious life but to its civic and educational life as well. For Mr. Wilde has indeed exerted a marked influence in many spheres of activity, and a large circle of friends—people of varying religious and political beliefs and others interested more particularly in the advancement of education—will regret his departure but will join with us in extending to Mr. Wilde and his family best wishes for the future. A keen student, a fine preacher and a man of wide sympathies, Mr. Wilde has fully maintained the high traditions established by a line of distinguished Unitarian ministers in Todmorden. He is, by the way, the town's senior minister in point of service.

A native of Norwich, Mr. Wilde was trained in theology at the Unitarian College in Manchester and at the Victoria University of Manchester, whence he obtained the certificate in theology with several distinctions. While at Todmorden he has secured both his degrees—an Honours B.Sc., in sociology of London University, and an M.A. in philosophy of Manchester University. Before he came to this district he was minister for five years at Halliwell Road Free Church, Bolton.

His eleven years ministry at Todmorden has been characterised by much activity in both church and Sunday school, and it is worthy of note that he was instrumental in introducing six years ago a May Queen Festival, and impressive event which now seems to be well-established. He has preached in most of the Nonconformist churches in the town and is a former president of Todmorden Sunday School Union. In his own denomination he has been active in many ways. He is secretary of the Unitarian College, Manchester, and joint secretary of the Old Students' Association connected with it; secretary of the Ministers' Institute, which arranges retreats and study groups; a member of the committee of the Lancashire and Cheshire Provincial Assembly, the Ministerial Advisory Committee, and the executive of the Widows' Fund; and he has lectured to the General Assembly at Essex Hall, London.

As a lecturer on psychology and sociology Mr. Wilde is wellknown in Todmorden, Hebden Bridge, and further afield, and he has been a regular contributor of articles on psychological and religious subjects to this journal. He has also had articles published in various other journals. He is author of two books: "Health, Sickness and Psychology" (published by the Oxford University Press in 1936) and "Magic Windows" (published in 1937 by the Lindsey Press), and he has contributed to composite volumes, religious and psychological. He is known, too, for his psycho-therapeutic work.—"News and Advitiser."

The usual supply of the December issue, at the Depository was completely sold out by the 12th. The Depository has another supply available.

REPORTS.

Ministers' Conference — The 325th meeting was held in Belfast on December 5th, Dr. and Mrs. Agnew being host and hostess. Miss Agnew of Moira kindly gave her assistance because of the urgency of Mrs. Agnew's professional duties. The Rev. W. Eakin was heartily welcomed, after his recent operation; though present at the meeting it will be necessary for him to wait awhile longer before taking any further engagements. Messages of sympathy and good-will were sent to the Rev. J. A. Kelly, Dunmurry, and the Rev. C. J. Montgomery. The latter had been visited by at least one of the brethren, who reported favourably though Mr. Montgomery's injuries have been very severe, and he narrowly escaped with his life.

There was a very good attendance and important matters were brought up for consideration, on which there were informative discussions. It was very obvious that considering the vital importance of such topics, in relation not only to the ministry, but to the church as a whole, the Conference would become more efficient and effective, if ministers as a whole would keep up their connection with it, whether or not they are able to attend the meetings; which would hereby be made more representative than they are. The new Pensions Scheme, applying to all whose income is under £400 ("the Black-coats' scheme") was given careful attention, and ministers were urged to get copies of the Act of Parliament from the Government Publications Office, Chichester Street, Belfast, and whatever other information there is available, as those under the age of 55 on 3rd January, 1938, are eligible if the scheme is taken advantage of before 3rd January, 1939; and after 2nd January, 1939, no person who is of the age of 40 or more will be eligible under the scheme. (A special note dealing with this will be found elsewhere). The right of exposition of Presbyterian Church Government at ordinations according to the undiluted Presbyterian tradition, without interference, was dealt with, and the disastrous implications, of influences from across the water, from Dissenters who are oblivious of the meaning of genuine Presbyterianism, were referred to.

All Souls', Belfast—On Sunday, 11th December, at 3 p.m., a Welsh service was held, the Rev. J. D. Davies, of Moneyrea, being the preacher. On Sunday, 18th, the augmented choir rendered the Christmas Cantata: "The Star of Bethlehem." The usual party will be held on New Year's Eve, and in the afternoon a party for the younger children of the Church; and it is expected also to arrange at some time a party of children from one of the City Missions. The sale of work realised £71. The weather was very unfavourable, and under the conditions the result was beyond expectation.

Ravara—The harvest thanksgiving services were held on Sunday afternoon and Monday evening, October 30th and 31st. The meeting house was tastefully decorated by the ladies of the congregation with fruit, flowers and vegetables for the occasion. The service on Sunday afternoon was conducted by the Rev. Henry Hall, Downpatrick, whose sermon was highly appreciated by the congregation, which was large and representative. On Monday evening, the minister, Rev. J. D. Davies, officiated, when there was a fair number of members and friends present. On Sunday afternoon every seat in the building was occupied. Mrs. McCartney presided at the organ at both services.

Glenarm—The local members of the British Legion, augmented by a strong contingent from Larne, attended a Remembrance Service at the Old Meeting House, Glenarm, on Sunday afternoon, November 13th. The service was conducted by Rev. E. Lockett, who gave the address. The lessons were read by Rev. T. P. Waring, M.A. (rector of Glenarm). The collection for the Earl Haig Poppy Day Fund amounted to £5 8s. 5d. The church was crowded.

Ballyclare — Harvest thanksgiving services were held in this church on the last Sunday of October. In the morning the Rev. H. M. Bell, B.A. (pastor loci) conducted the service and preached the sermon.

Speaking with his usual eloquence and earnestness, he took his text from the portion of Scripture he read for his second lesson—"Be not deceived, God is not mocked for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he reap."

The choir, augmented by some of Mrs. Moore's pupils—has reached a high standard of excellence and year by year we are treated to vocalism that from a voluntary choir is seldom heard. The soloists—Miss Todd, Miss Muirhead, Miss Blair, Miss Boyd, Miss Galbraith and Mr. S. Horner, were without exception, delightful to listen, and once again we congratulate Mrs. Moore on the result of her work "light denied."

In the evening Rev. J. McCleery, B.A., S.T.M., Newry, occupied the pulpit and this Demonstrenes of the Irish Non-Subscribing Church, probed with no uncertain touch the festering sores of our so-called civilisation. He spoke from the words of a well-known hymn:

"All the world is God's own field
Fruit unto His praise to yield."

If any in that packed congregation felt inclined to be apathetic over the state of the world to-day surely apathy vanished after the sermon we were privileged to hear on Sunday night.

As in the morning the choir gave us of their best. The anthem: "Trust in Him always" was beautifully sung. Mr. Gamble's fine voice was heard to advantage in the solo in the anthem and again in his rendering of "The Heavenly Song". Mr. John Harson sang the bass solo in that exquisite piece of music "Christ's Own Peace" and both Miss Logan (who took the soprano solo) and he are to be congratulated on their very finished singing.

Mrs. Moore and Miss Bell sang the duet "My Task"—their voices were a harmony and a delight.

The attendances at both services surpassed all previous records—in the evening—even standing room was not available and many were unable to get in to the church.

The decorations were never more artistically arranged—the brilliant sunshine in the morning intensified the glowing colours of the flowers and fruit and the entire building was a dream of beauty realised.

Mr. Bell, Mrs. Ted Moore, Miss Laird, Miss Nelson and Misses Biddy and Bobby Moore were responsible for the decorative work. Mr. James Maclean was indispensable on Saturday and Sunday—these hard workers are deserving of our best thanks.

Downpatrick—The Christmas Fair was promoted in aid of the Presbyterian Non-subscribing Church manse building fund. £200 was raised. There were four seasnoably decorated and well-laden stalls, with the usual accessories, and ladies served tea at tempting tables on the platform. Rev. J. Shaw Brown opened the proceedings with prayer.

Mr. W. A. F. Martin, Crown solicitor, as chairman, speaking as an adherent of another Downpatrick Presbyterian congregation, said that Stream-street was looked upon as the mother church of the district, dating back as it did for more than 200 years. And everyone wished it well. Miss Davidson, of Bryansford, who was about to perform the opening ceremony, and whom they heartily welcomed, was the grand-daughter of one of the most eminent in the long line of Stream-street ministers, Rev. Samuel Craig Nelson. His was an honoured name. The speaker recollected as a boy this venerable minister, white-bearded, white-haired, and blind, conducting a religious service. To do so and to recite the Scripture from memory was surely a marvellous feat.

Miss Davidson, after a reference to St. Patrick and the city of Down, said that at least six cities claimed the honour of having been the birthplace of Homer, the Greek epic poet. So the distribution in the course of the years of members of the two branches of her family led her to have a sympathetic interest in six Ulster congregations, including Stream-street. She inferred from the presence of the chairman, who was attached to a sister church, the continued existence of a kindly interdenominational spirit. Incidentally, she confessed a liking for the old name, meeting-house, the place where they worshipped, and where they found inspiration to fulfil their duty in every day life. She was glad to do what she could to help her friends here.

On the motion of Rev. Henry Hall, the esteemed pastor, seconded by Mr. Chas.

Stewart, hearty thanks were conveyed to the chairman and Miss Davidson, the latter being presented by Miss Hazel McMechan, with a box of linen. Then came the National Anthem. Subjoined are the names of the stallholders:

Produce stall: Mrs. C. Stewart and Mrs. T. Hutton, Mrs. J. Black, Mrs. S. McCullen, Mrs. C. Moffett, Mrs. J. Kelly and Miss G. Kelly. Pound stall: Mrs. L. M. Cochrane and Mrs. H. Hall, Mrs. A. Hutton, Mrs. J. Quinn, Mrs. J. White, Mrs. T. McMullan, Mrs. S. Taylor. Cake stall: Mrs. H. Dickson, Mrs. J. Davidson, Mrs. C. Lowry, Mrs. J. Nesbitt, Mrs. H. Hayes, Mrs. J. Corry, Mrs. D. Kinnear, Miss May Corry. Work stall: Miss Marie Henry, Miss Molly Bell, assisted by the choir. Refreshments:Mrs. A. Ervine, Mrs. J. Newman, Mrs. J. McMechan, Mrs. T. Law, Mrs. R. McCullen, Miss R. Dick, the Misses Moffett, H. Hall. Games and competitions: Mr. T. Law, Mr. H. Dickson, J.P., hon. treasurer, Mr. J. Newman, hon secretary.

The amusements comprised airgun shooting, darts, ping-pong and spotting the treasure. Dancing was engaged in to music by Mr. Ian Fitzsimmon's band, Mr. A. Kelly being M.C.—"Down Recorder."

Rev. D. J. Williams preached his farewell sermon at Killinchy, on Sunday, December 18th, 1938, thereby closing a ministry there of thirty years. Mr. Williams intends to reside in the district.

Belfast York Street—The misfortune which has befallen us in the matter of the serious damage to our roof has been turned in some ways to an advantage. It was decided that no appeal for help would be made and there would be no sales of work or the like but that all our activities would be increased. £54 was subscribed at the Harvest. Many members have increased their stipends. The ladies held an American Tea. They are more than pleased with the success of their first effort and have the right to be. Our Hall was transformed and with gleaming silver and cut glass on snowy table cloths added to its recent improvements its appearance almost flabbergasted our visitors accustomed to the usual Church schoolroom. An effort had been made to confine invitations to those who had never before been in York Street. Unfortunately our Church which we used to show with some pride to strangers could be shown to none now and it remained locked.

Much pleasure has been given to our people by the action of the General Assembly in paying for the materials for our New Gallery. A plate is being placed in the Hall recording their gift and a duplicate is being presented to the Assembly. Our pleasure was increased by the fact that the gift was not asked for. Dr. Rattray was so impressed by his short visit to the Church that he himself suggested an official application. This has released the sum raised by the congregation for the present emergency.

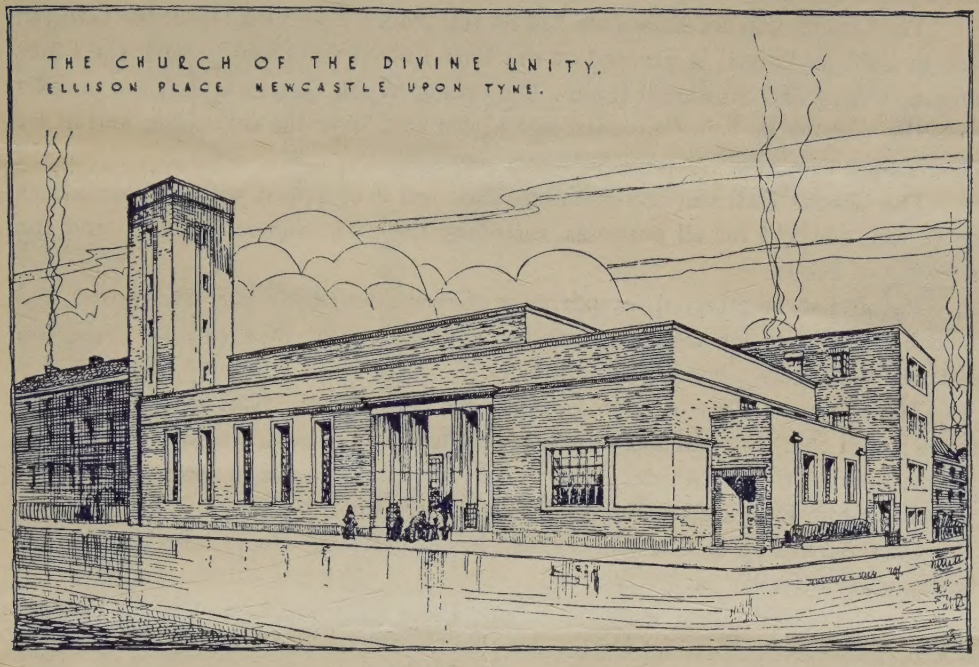
As part of the effort now being made the Dramatic Society are again presenting "Killybuck" during Christmas Week —on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 28th, 29th and 30th December. This will complete twenty-one performances of this play. The Congregational Social on Boxing Day and Children's Party on the day following will involve midnight preparations for the play on Wednesday. The Dramatic Society are therefore arranging a supper and rehearsal at eleven p.m., after which the Hall will be prepared. As many of the company will be commencing work on Wednesday their action is appreciated. Many who talk about how easily we undertake these things in York Street fail to realise that they are not done easily and it is to be feared that there are even members of our own congregation who attend a service one night and find the Hall transformed into a complete miniature theatre the next who never consider the hours of heavy work which have been done in the meantime.

The physical training class are arranging a dance and others a whist drive and in these ways we hope that the money will be available for the task that has to be undertaken as soon as the weather permits.

Meanwhile what has pleased us most is that a few kind friends hearing of our trouble have sent generous donations unasked. It is hoped that if we can raise the funds required for the roof and renovation of the Church that these may

THE CHURCH OF THE DIVINE UNITY

ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH
THE BUILDING APPEAL FUND



I have been minister of the Church of the Divine Unity for nearly twenty years. In this capacity I have given of my best to both the Community and the Denomination. To all friends in the Community and in the Denomination I make earnest appeal in our present great need.

Gladly would I have avoided the responsibility of leadership in the undertaking of building a new Church property, if I could honourably have done so. But such building became an urgent necessity. My loyalty and service are pledged to the congregation until it is established in its new place of worship and of service.

Very splendidly indeed have the members of the congregation responded to the Appeal. Full of regret that their old Church must be abandoned, they have courageously faced the task of the building of a new. They have contributed to the point of sacrifice, and are working with a fine enthusiasm.

We hold this ideal in common—an absolute minimum of debt when we take possession of the new property in 1939. Towards the achievement of that end we are now issuing our Appeal. I ask all friends in both Denomination and Community to respond with generosity.

123 BRIGHTON GROVE,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

HERBERT BARNES.

The site of the new Church is centrally situated, facing a permanent open square in the City at the corner of Ellison Place and Oxford Street, within five minutes walk of the present Church. It is to be built of selected brick with stone finishes to Windows, Cornices, Entrance Columns and Doors, and has a Tower, as illustrated. A feature of the elevation is the Entrance leading to an open Fore Court from which access is obtained to either Church or Hall through the main vestibule.

The Church will accommodate 344 on the ground floor and 110 in the Gallery, 454 in all. The Pulpit, is situated at the East End of the Church, with the Choir Organ, Vestry and Stewards' Room. The ceiling of the Church is flat, the portion over the centre aisle being some ten feet higher than over the side aisles, and lit by clear storey windows.

The Church Hall will accommodate 250, and is equipped with a commodious stage well adapted for all purposes, including the performance of Plays, and the showing of Films.

It can also be adapted for purposes of recreation, including Badminton and Dancing, facilities for Refreshments being provided for in a suitably equipped Kitchen, served by a hand lift to all floors.

The site has a slope of approximately ten feet, and the plan is so arranged to make use of this space for the provision of a number of useful rooms on the lower ground floor on the south side. These consist of a Social Room to accommodate 100 people, a Store Room, Cloak Rooms for men and a Choir Vestry.

On the First Floor is a commodious Ladies' Meeting Room, also suitable for Committee or similar gatherings.

The Caretaker's home is on the Second Floor and consists of Kitchen, Sitting Room, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom.

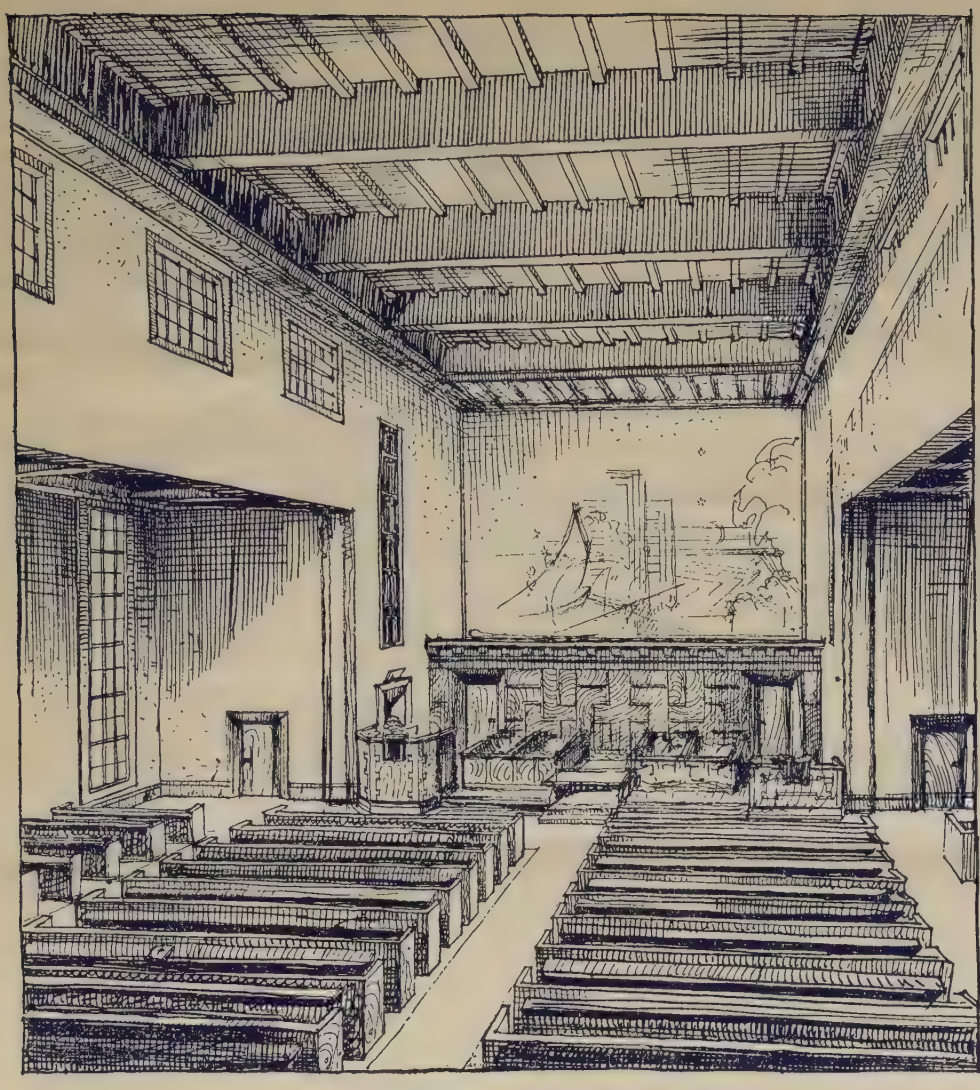
Being now in a position to show both Elevation and detailed Plans of our proposed new Church Buildings we feel we can more strongly appeal for your financial aid. You will note that our intention is to build, not only for to-day, but worthily to represent our Church in this important North-East centre in the days that are to come. It is our aim to hand on these buildings free from debt.

Our heritage consisted in part of a freehold Church and School without encumbrance. It is our hope that such support may be forthcoming from friends and well-wishers, both in the denomination and community, that we in turn may be able to hand on to our successors a well-equipped group of buildings free from a restriction of debt or any kind other.

The necessity of building new premises has been forced upon us. The demolition of the old premises is entirely due to subsiding foundations and general decay.The premises have gradually become insecure and unsafe. For many years they have involved high maintenance costs.

That new premises are also required as an ordinary amenity of the social life of the Church has been testified to by Dr. Alfred Hall. It is likewise the experience of all who have been engaged in carrying on the social activities in recent years. There have been no facilities or accommodation for work of a modern character.

In our new Church we have provided for a slightly increased number of sittings —all of which are free, our membership being of a most democratic character. The Main Hall will provide a useful meeting place, much needed for social functions.

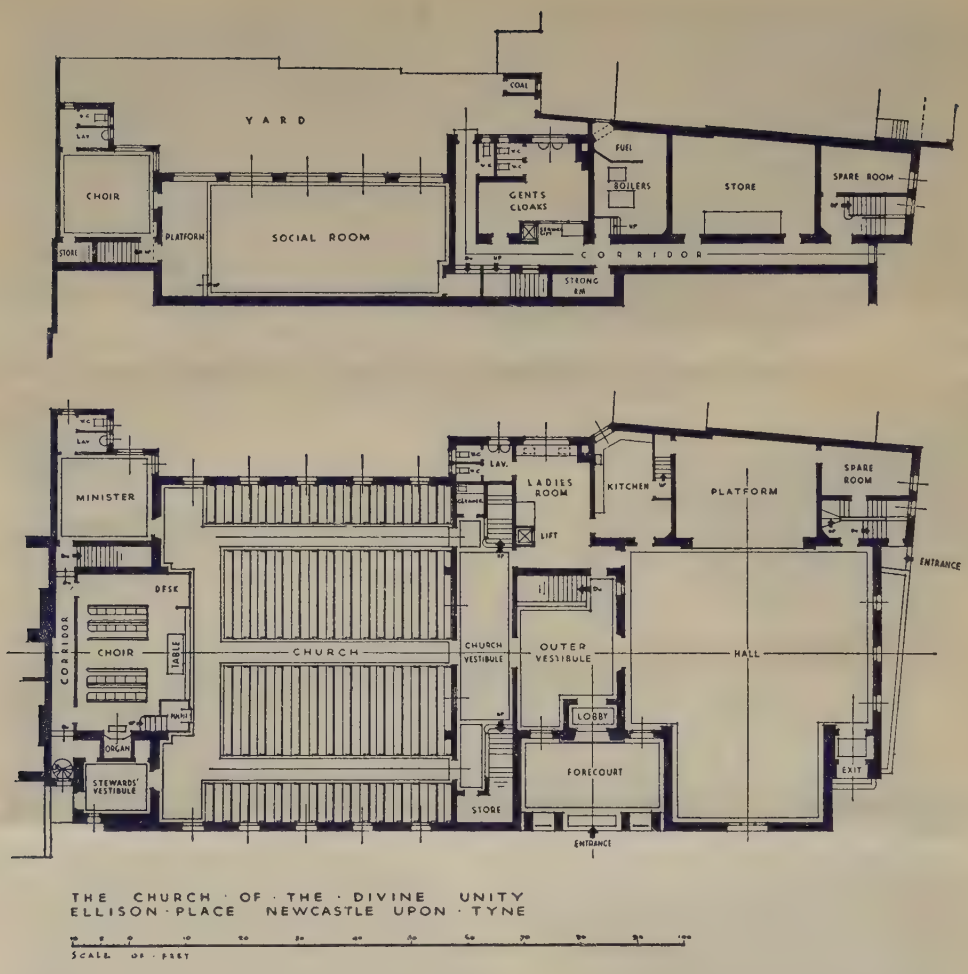


It will aid us in maintaining our position as leaders in various enterprises, from the presentation of Modern Plays to the use of the Cinema and Screen. At the same time a Minor Hall with additional rooms available will admit the holding of Classes and Group Meetings hitherto impossible.

To build in this manner, re-fit and re-model our Church Organ and equip both Church and Hall, will cost at least £22,000. The site for our new property *had to be* central. It has cost the sum of £9,750. After prolonged efforts we have been able to obtain £17,500 for the old site. We are now faced with the position of raising £14,250. Towards that sum we have now £5,857.

Towards the raising of the balance required we now issue this Appeal. We have a live Church in this community. We earnestly invite you to support us in this high aim—an absolute minimum of debt when we move in to our new Church in the Summer of 1939.

The building is now in course of erection and arrangements are being made for the Unveiling Foundation and Memorial Stones on January 15th, 1939.



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C.M.

J.M.P.

be transferred to the Reserve Fund in which every donation has been placed for some years. To secure our Church for the future will be our greatest task. As in clearing off the debt which we inherited we feel that this is something in which we might ask for help from the denomination but whether we shall do so or not is undecided. It would be better that help and encouragement should be given to a living Church which is able to multiply it than that a despairing effort should be made to prevent it being closed some later day. Our friends who have helped us and any who may do so are assured that their gifts as far as possible will be utilised not to do work which we are able to do ourselves but to secure it for the future. The day may come when we do not think we have so many Churches in Belfast that one may be allowed to close. Others are extending and building new Churches and we should at least maintain those we have especially when great sacrifices have been made to make them what they are.

Crumlin.—A successful social was held on November 30. It had been arranged by the local branch of the Women's League which invited all the adult members of the congregation. New curtains were at the school windows; these had been provided by the members of the League, the necessary machining, etc., having been performed by Miss J. Thompson and Mrs. Palmer.

A Christmas Party (mainly for the children) was held on December 15. Father Christmas paid his usual visit and distributed gifts from his sack. Recitations were delivered by little Annie Aicken, Margaret Palmer, Mrs. Hinkins and Mr. McClurg. League members were to the fore in providing and distributing refreshments. The tree was especially bright; the sweets and the oranges were particularly good and the games thoroughly enjoyable.

Miss A. Manderson (the energetic secretary of the Women's League) is now busy with arrangements for a small sale to be held on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Holywood—By the death on Dec. 2nd, of Margaret Patterson Shannon, wife of Capt. Hugh Shannon, the congregation has lost one of its oldest members—a woman of sterling character who carried her religion into her daily life.

At the annual meeting held on Dec. 11, the officers were re-elected, and Miss Greenfield, Mr. W. F. Graham, and Mr. Hugh Shannon, junr., were elected on the Committee in place of the three members who retired in rotation.

Popular Lecture—On January 9th, at 8 p.m., a lecture will be given by Dr. R. Lloyd Praeger, in the School-room of the First Presbyterian (N.S.) Church, High St., Holywood. His subject will be "The Ground We Tread On." Admission 6d.

Banbridge.—The Women's League, to raise funds for its Benevolent activities invited Mrs. Slipper to give her lantern lecture on "The Romance of Lord Howe Island." Mrs. Slipper is a great traveller and can skilfully interest her audience in a truly vivid way. The Rev. John McCleery and Mr. Jas. Thompson kindly brought their lantern and exhibited the splendid slides. The Misses Godding gave a musical interlude in the place of Mrs. Helen Stevenson who was unfortunately down with an attack of the prevalent 'flu. Mrs. Boyd was chairman and thanks for her services were included with those for the lecturer, vocalists and lantern attendants.

—Two other activities of the autumn might have been recorded earlier, for they are of more than ordinary interest. A united service was held this year in our Church, with the local Presbyterian and Methodist clergymen taking part. The Church was filled; ex-servicemen, Guides and Scouts attended with their Standards, making a solemn and imposing parade; and the very appropriate sermon was preached by our own minister. The service was very fully reported in the local Press. The exceptionally good collection was devoted to the Earl Haig Poppy fund.

The good collections at our harvest thanksgiving services were devoted to the Royal Victoria, and the Banbridge district, hospitals. The Church, as usual, was beautifully decorated. The special preacher was the Rev. J. Hinkins, M.A., whose morning and evening sermons were of appropriate and practical nature. The evening address on the Kingdom of God, text "According to the

joy in Heaven" was fully reported in the "Banbridge Chronicle."

Mrs. Thompson presided at the organ with her usual sympathy and skill; the singing and solos from the augmented choir was of the usual high standard, solos from "Honour the Lord" and "For ye shall go out with joy" being feelingly rendered by Miss Pearl Preston and Mr. H. L. Chambers. Our friends from other churches never fail us in this united choir, one friend has attended to help us for the 20th consecutive year.

The Y.P.L. is still going strong, and invites other youth groups to friendly table tennis matches. Will secretaries please note that our Secretary is Mr. Russell Martin, of Newry Street, Banbridge. This League has visited the local Methodist League of Young People in friendly contests: and only inclement weather interfered with an arranged tennis tournament with our Episcopalean friends. These contests of our young people inter-denominationally, will surely be of good Christian value. May they continue to mutual benefit.

Moneyrea.—A very successful whist drive, organised by Mr. H. Frame and Mr. J. Stewart, was held in the Lyttle Memorial School on December 2nd, to which friends came from far and near. The valuable prizes given by generous donors. were presented by Mrs. J. Dare Davies. Mr. R. Kane presided over the proceedings. The evening ended with a dance in the Old School, Mr. W. Maxwell acted as M.C. The proceeds were in aid of the Lyttle Memorial School.

On the evening of November 11th, the Dramatic Society held their annual Social which was well attended in spite of bad weather. The members of the Society deserve high praise for the excellent way they had arranged everything. It was a most enoyable evening.

The Sunday School Xmas Party was held on Saturday evening, December 17th, in the Old School. The Sunday School Committee were responsible for the excellent arrangements. Tea was provided for the children at 6 o'clock, then followed the distribution of gifts from the Xmas tree, and book prizes for good attendance during the year. A gold medal was presented to William Kennedy for 10 years full attendance, after which the children took part in games and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks and praise are due to Miss R. Kennedy, Miss E. Dempster and Mrs. McCartney for their labour of love for the Sunday School.

REVIEWS.

"Seeing Things."—And other Talks to boys and girls, by John Hinkins, M.A. — "The Lindsey Press." Price 1/-.

"The Unitas Book."—(Rev. Herbert Barnes). Printers, "Northumberland Press Limited," Gateshead-on-Tyne, 2/6.

These are two very entertaining books, and are most suitable for Christmas presents and New Year's gifts. The first is by a well-known friend, the Rev. John Hinkins, of Crumlin, and the second by one very closely connected with us, and very popular in the North of Ireland, the Rev. Herbert Barnes, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"Seeing Things" is a very suitable book for use in Sunday-school classes as well as in the home. The chapters are short, clear, simple to the point, and good reading for young and old. They reveal a skilful and sympathetic teacher, who intuitively wins and holds the interest right through, stirring thought all the time, e.g., "How?"—title of opening chapter. Round towers in Antrim. "How did they get there?" "You have come along a road to a church to-day." "How did road and church get there?" Story of Theodore Parker and the unseen power in him which said: Don't, when as a little fellow he found a tortoise, and was on the point of striking it with a stick. He went home and told his mother about it, and she said that this was conscience, the voice of God. Was she right?

Another chapter is on "Joining up." Posters are displayed: "Join the army and see the world." One man could not make an army, man after man has "joined up." In Domestic Missions, the missioner is the human hook at the end of a long human chain? People

living in great cities in poverty and difficulties need a helpful friend to come into their homes.

"Coal and the Sun."—Without sunshine, where would anything be? "Neither Mr. Neville Chamberlain, nor Signor Mussolini, nor Herr Hitler, Count Grandi, nor Mr. Gandhi, nor you nor I be here."

"Reverence." Russell Lowell, the American poet wrote about the poet that was to come, who would see "beneath the fouled faces lurking one God-built shrine of reverence and love." Have reverence for other people, 14 interesting chapters. We wish every success to this book, and trust there will be a good demand for it.

"The Unitas Book" is a selection of 25 articles contributed by "Unitas" to "The Newcastle Evening Chronicle." Unitas has a message for you every Saturday night in "The Evening Chronicle," is a little notice inserted at the end of the book, which is being sold to raise money for the Newcastle Building Fund, an appeal for which is enclosed in each magazine. If you are at a loss for a nice book to give to a friend at this time, we recommend this one, and in this we may say we are practising what we preach. "Keeping the Human Touch" is the opening article, and was suggested by an old magistrate who used to invite Mr. Barnes to accompany him to the court, with the words: "You must keep the human touch." That is as essential for magistrates as for ministers, as in the routine it is so easy for people just to become "cases," e.g , with an officious official whose wit and humour were often at the expense of the unfortunate human beings brought before the bench. "We live where we think."

"There is a kingdom of childhood, children really live in Fairylands. Don't stoop at the gate of the child's kingdom. Stand up and look, for this is really and truly a much larger world than the one in which you have been buying and selling. It is a world in which everything is possible." "The Law of Fairyland is the Law of the Kingdom of Heaven."

The book is full of good things, and to buy it is to give help in building a big new church where it is much needed.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF A 'REVOLUTION.'

August, 1905, saw the departure of a party of tourists en route for Norway via N.C-on-Tyne.

On arrival we split into parties, and a strong-minded lady friend constituted herself our courier. On arrival at the dock, we tried to size up our fellow travellers.

There was no mistaking the Americans —smart pushing and well dressed.

The captain and officers were all Norse men, of the Royal Mail Steamer 'Kanvald Jarl.'

Next in interest to the Americans were some jolly South of Ireland tourists, also Scottish Lairds going to fish. Protestant and R.C. clerics made up a very pleasant party. Our first landing was 'Bergen' a most beautiful town, the whole party got into little stock carts drawn by sturdy little Iceland ponies; away we went through the valleys; the farmers, men and women hanging out the cut grass on wire fences to dry.

Next day we went to see a huge ice field or Glazier, we had to climb a bit and when we reached it, the colours were beautiful, when we joined our carts, the pony tore down the hill, our courier shouting at the boy to stop! stop! and finally flung her arms round his neck and nearly choked him, but the pony landed us safely at his own pace.

On Sunday morning the captain and officers were very finely decorated and the crew had all little flags pinned on, as we went down the gangway into the launch, the C.D. gave each one a Norweigian flag and a streamer which the ladies pinned on their hats. He explained in very good English, that he and the crew being good Norweigians were going ashore to vote for separation from Sweden. We were rather alarmed, but he assured us with a twinkle, that Norway was not Ireland, and that the plebiscite of the people would take the place of cracked skulls. We walked along the side of Gudvangless Fjord and met little knots of men dressed in their Sunday blacks, exactly like Barrie's elders, very solemn and serious; Passing a big wooden building we heard solemn singing. Our courier said "Oh this is a Lutheran meeting house"

they're all Lutherans here, let us go in, we went through to where the singing was, and found ourselves in a grassy court yard, where a number of these men we had met were seated at a table, the one at the head of the table read something from a book, whereupon, the others held up their right hand, and said ja, ja! Then they sang a verse of what sounded like a dirge "Oh yes," said the Oracle, "we are in luck, that is the minister and we will now hear some Lutheran hymns," with that appeared a girl with a tray and glasses followed by another with a tray full of "Church Wardens" and tobacco!!

This was one of the voting centres and the Lutheran hymn was the National Anthem, which we afterwards heard sung magnificiently and with great enthusiasm. It runs thus in English:—

"Yes, we love with fond devotion
Norways mountain domes,
Rising stormlashed o'er the ocean
With their thousand homes,
Love our country while we're bending
Thoughts to Fathers grand
And to Safa night that's sending
Dreams upon our land."

We waved our flags with the best of them, we didn't know what it was all about, but as it was "against the Government it was all right."

The women and young girls were all in gala attire (national) with their fair hair, blue eyes, and sweet open countenances, they were very pleasing looking. There was no rowdiness, all were very serious, and quietly recorded their votes which decided the destiny of their beloved country.

Next day we were to go overland to 'Trondhjem' the ancient capital, to meet our boat there. Our courier took return tickets by mistake, we tried to explain to the fair-haired blue-eyed young man, he shook his head helplessly at the volubility of our courier, but with the manner of a viking brought a young student from the next compartment, who quickly explained and told us to explain to the station master at Vossanpen. When we got there one of our American friends was lecturing the station-master on the absurdity of changing one king for another. Why not be like the great United States and become a Republic? But, said the station-master, we want a king of our own to obey our Parliament, English style!! I then explained our difficulty, he with typical courtesy, which we received from every one of his countrymen—said: "Go to that restaurant and have a good lunch. I will 'phone to Bergen and refund your money," which he did, shook us warmly by the hand and hoped we would continue to like his country, all in quite good English! The student told us the medical students has to pass their final exams. in three languages, so you can appreciate the high state of efficiency in the schools.

'Trondjhem'! What a plain Palace! A big wooden building decorated in quaint style, to our eyes.

After being mixed up in a revolution together we Northern and Southerns got very chummy. A dear old priest from Cork took us to a grand concent in a beer-garden, we sat at little tables and drank coffee and eat sweet cakes and listened to grand Hungarian music, and very fine singing. Our host was a delightful storyteller and by this time the half of the ship's company had joined us. We thought the streets desperately quiet and the people the same, but we all agreed that if we could only revolute in the same orderly—!alas, alas!

After numerous adventures we had a bad time in the North sea, were battened down the first night. Next day the deck was strewn with inanimate bundles of humanity, the only living ones were the Scotch lairds who were going round proffering hot brandy. One red-haired Scotchman said solemly, "Laddies its the only cure." Ah just pit up my hat and ah drink till ah see twa hats, besides you've had a stirrin' time in the Revolution! A rich brogue came as if from the funnel of the 'Kanvald Jarl.' "Dare you call yon a 'revolution?' why it wasn't in it with a Belfast 12th!" Immediately we were in a heated discussion, but our stately captain appearing humming his beloved National Anthem, stilled our jangled nerves. This was 33 years ago, I reminded our courier of the day she lay in the cold flags of the Trondihem Cathedral. She fainted and the Verger rendered first aid by placing the huge key of the Cathedral at back of her neck, where

the present King Haakon was crowned with his sweet English Princess Maud, alas, so recently taken from all who loved her so well.

The memories clustering round that noble people and their grand country, will be with me while I live, I often see them in dreams, and wish my countrymen would emulate their orderly simplicity of purpose.

It is a sparsely populated country and living is hard: there are no millionaires, but what sheer hard work is done by all in their various occupations! and unless tourists have spoiled them; the most honest people with whom I have ever come in contact. I pay this slight tribute to this most interesting people.

M.M.G.

Dec. 4th, 1938.

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URGENT.

(Ministerial Fellowship Summary).

The New Government Pensions Scheme, referred to in the report of Ministers' Conference, has the following points of importance:—

(1) The scheme only includes those whose income does not exceed £400 per annum.

(2) All under the age of 55 on 3rd January, 1938, are eligible if the scheme is taken advantage of **before 3rd January, 1939.**

(3) After 2nd January, 1939, no person who is of the age of 40 or more will be eligible under the scheme.

(4) The rate for all who join at the **beginning of the Scheme** will be 1/3 per week, but after that date contributions will vary according to age, with the great probability of increased premiums.

The following items should be noted:

(a) The benefits conferred by the Government Scheme are quite independent of existing benefits from our denominational funds and pension schemes.

(b) Our own Pension and Insurance Fund makes no provision for a Widows' Pension. The State Scheme therefore is the only means whereby ministers outside the Lancashire and Cheshire area can provide a guaranteed income for widows and orphans.

Chapter 23 of the Act I, 1 (c) (2). In the case of a woman not exceeding £250 a year, of which not more than £125 a year is unearned income.

Teacher: Jones, what must we do before we can obtain the forgiveness of sins?—"Please sir, we must sin!"

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SHORT BIOGRAPHIES.

(BY H. J. F. ORR).

In the beginning of the nineteenth century, Belfast was known as the "Northern Athens." A small group of literary and scientific men had so raised the interests of the community in their whole outlook of life, by their varied efforts, that the town as it then was, became well known to leaders of thought and science all over the world.

Among these men were some not so prominent as Armstrong, Drennan or Drummond, but who in their day contributed much to the standing of the community. The following members of our faith should be remembered not only for their work but as examples to our younger members.

Alexander Mitchell, born in Dublin, 1780, his family removing early to Belfast. He was educated at Dr. Bruce's Academy. As a boy he was greatly interested in mechanics, making clocks, and working models. Unfortunately his sight began to fail and eventually paralysis of the optic nerve caused total blindness. Despite this handicap he carried on the business of brick-making, and in leisure hours, he worked out his famous "screw-jut." Experiments were carried out in the Lough with the aid of his son. He was awarded the Telford Medal for his invention.

"A simple means of constructing durable lighthouses in deep water in shifting sands." It was first used near the mouth of the Thames. Then a larger one at Fleetwood, others were built around the Indian coast, Belfast Lough and Portland. He also made improvements in screw propellers.

Active and of a cheery disposition, he was most popular with all who knew him, a good "raconteur" he was much sought after. He died in 1868, and is buried in the old Clifton St. Cemetery.

James Grimshaw, Jr.

James Grimshaw, jr., belonged to Whitehouse where has grandfather, Nicholas had established in the latter part of the 18th century printworks and cotton mills, one of the finest in Ireland. This mill like many others was later converted into a linen mill.

In his spare time he studied Natural History, and was one of the founders of the Botanic Gardens. His wife was a sister of John Templeton, the botanist. An active member of the 2nd congregation (All Souls) he served for some time on its Committee.

It is interesting to record here, that when an attempt was made some eighty years ago to prevent the public from using a path to the Cavehill, his father then almost 90 years gave evidence of his using the road over the hill from the time of his boyhood.

William Ritchie.

To William Ritchie is due the credit of establishing shipbuilding in Belfast. An Ayrshire man, building small ships in his native county. He visited Belfast in the spring of 1791 and decided to start the industry here, bringing over in the summer, men and materials from Saltcoats. One year later his first Belfast-built ship was launched "Hibernia," intended for the American trade, not only did his firm build ships, but Belfast's first dock was constructed in 1800. He died unmarried in 1834.

THY KINGDOM COME.

It will be, Thy Kingdom Come,
When the might of labour commands.
It will astonish some,
The work of human hands.

To see an old world in re-birth,
Is the Christ, that is to be.
In spirit to rule the earth,
And banish misery.

Guiding to build and ensure,
A world of truth and right.
Eternally to endure,
In that reign of love and light.

M. LYNCH (Dublin).

"Hold fast to Truth as a lamp; look to yourselves and none others as refuge; work out your salvation with diligence." Last words of Buddah. "the Awakened or Enlightened."

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